THE

Theatrical Observer.

AND

Daily Bills of the Play.

"Nothing extenuate nor set down aught in malice."

No. 94. *Saturday, Feb. 23, 1822.* *Price 1d.*

DRURY LANE.

From recent observations on the manner in which the *Boxes* at this Theatre, have been attended, it would appear that the fashionable world consider it *vulgar* to be seen at the representation of *Shakespeare's* Tragedies, and that the "*immortal bard*" is nothing without the aid of Mr. Bishop's musical compositions and selections. Thus, on Thursday evening, altho' the Pit and Galleries were comfortably filled, the dress Boxes were not half occupied, and the other Boxes nearly empty. Yet *Richard the Second* was the Play, and Mr. Kean represented the unfortunate monarch. At Covent Garden Theatre the reader will perceive there was on the same night a numerous assemblage to witness the melodramatic, operatic stuff, garbled from the scotch novellist's Legend of Montrose. This is the display of *public taste*—the proof that there exists amongst the higher orders a desire to patronise the *British Drama !*

Mr. Kean's performance of Richard the 2nd. contains many beauties. The character itself is that of a man easily influenced, by representations of prosperity, to give way to arrogance; or by misfortune to yield with tame submission, yet with princely feelings, and bitter recollections of his former weaknessess. He raises pity, but cannot command respect. Mr Kean gave to these qualities of the deposed sovereign the truest colours. His fiery impatient demand to know why his adherents had not joined him, and then his chop-fallen tones on learning their being put to death by Belinbroke, were excellently delivered. But the part where he had most opportunity to produce a

forcible impression was in the scene where he surrenders his crown to his successful opponent. The soliloquy with the mirror was most admirable, and great applause followed.

Mr. Cooper acted *Bolinbroke* well, and was frequently applauded; but it is to be regretted that his delivery is so defective: at the end of almost every line of blank verse, Mr. Cooper raises with an unpleasant tone the pitch of his voice, and at once destroys the natural effect of the speech. If he were to practice with a judicious friend at his elbow, to make him conscious of this inharmonious habit, he might break it down.

Mrs. West made the *Queen* as full of grief as the part required: she exerted herself almost too much.

This Play we do not think so well calculated as most of the other Tragedies of Shakespeare to please on the stage; for it is very deficient of incident: it, therefore, should not be again produced.

List of the Songs, Duetts, Choruses, &c. in The Veteran.

ACT I.

Glee and Chorus—" Merry Boys"
Song—" Old Adam."
Duet—" Granby the brave" [old Air]
Recit and Air—" Let us teach the heart to love."
Song—" 'Tis music's all inspiring sound."
Finale—" Cupid if tried by a martial court."

ACT II.

Song—" Erin, dear Erin!" I prize thee."
Duet—" The Shamrock, Rose, and Thistle."
Recit and Air—" The hero when fallen."
Song—" The pretty Miss Pan and the brave Captain Flash."
Trio—" Why the devil don't you cease."
Song—" Hear! hear! hear!
Glee and Chorus—" In Love or in War."

ACT III.

Bravura—" Hark, hark! the echo."
Song—" Oh, Paris, light ethereal sahere."
Fragment—" Adieu! adieu!"
Song—" How vain is the sigh."
Duet—" Merrily o'er the world we'll go."
Duet—" Old Batchelors ought to be pitied."
Finale—" Merry, merry, beats the drum."

COVENT GARDEN.

This House was most numerously and elegantly attended on Thursday evening to see *Montrose*, and *The Miller and his Men*. Both pieces were received with great applause.

A Share of this Publication is to be disposed of.

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Theatre Royal, Covent Garden.

This Evening will be performed (7th. time) a New Opera, called

MONTROSE;

Or, The Children of the Mist.

With new Scenery, Dresses, and Decorations. The Overture by Mr. Bishop, the rest of the Music by Mr. Bishop, Ware, &c.

Earl of Montrose, Mr. CONNOR,
Earl of Menteith, Mr. DURUSET,
Angus Macaulay, Mr. COMER,
Allan Macaulay, Mr. ABBOTT,
Evan Dhu, Mr. HUNT, Donald, Mr. TAYLOR,
Capt. Dalgetty, Mr. MEADOWS,
Marquis of Argyl, Mr. CHAPMAN,
Sir Duncan Campbell, Mr. EGERTON,
Colin, Mr. KING,
Ranald of the Mist, Mr. YATES,
Lewie, Master LONGHURST,
Children of the Mist—Officers of Argyle—Officers of Montrose.
Erorcht, Mrs. FAUCIT,
Annot Lyle, Miss STEPHENS.
Ellen, Mrs. BISHOP, Mause, Mrs. STERLING.

The following New Scenery will be exhibited. Act I.

A ROMANTIC GLEN IN THE HIGHLANDS.
The Dining Hall of Darlinwarich. An Apartment of the Castle.
The Hall of Audience in the Castle. ACT II.
The Castle of Inverara, with a distant View of Lochfine and Mountains.
The Anti-Room of the Castle.
Craigs and Rocks, the Abode of the Children of the Mist.
ACT III. Interior of a Hut. The Apartment of Annot Lyle.
LOCH LOCHY,
With the Encampment of Argyl.
The Gorge of the Mountains. A Wild Dell.
Interior of Loch Lochy. An Apartment in Loch Lochy.
The LARGE HALL in INVERLOCHY,

After which,

THE RENDEZVOUS.

The Characters the same as before.

To conclude with

The Padlock.

Mungo, Mr. BLANCHARD.

Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

This Evening will be performed [1st time] a New Comic Opera, in 3 Acts, entitled

THE VETERAN;

OR,

The Farmer's Sons.

A New Pastoral and Military Overture, composed by Mr. T. Cooke.

The rest of the Music (with the exception of one piece) composed expressly for this Opera by Messrs. Whitaker, Parry, Rooke, E. Knight, and T. Cooke.

The Principal Characters by

Mr. MUNDEN, Mr. HARLEY,
Mr. FITZWILLIAM, Mr. POWELL,
Mr G. SMITH, Mr. GATTIE, Mr KNIGHT,
Mr. WILLMOTT, Mr. ISAACS, Mr. WEBSTER

Messrs. Gibbon, Dobbs, Randall, Sheriff, Read, D. Smith, Turnour, Goodman, Hope, Gussio, &c &c.

Mrs. BARNARD,
Madame VESTRIS, Miss POVEY,
And Miss FORDE,

(Being her 1st Appearance at this Theatre, and 8th. on any Stage.

To conclude with the Farce of

Monsieur Tonson.

Mr. COOPER, Mr. BARNARD, Mr. FOOTE,
Mr. GATTIE, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr MEREDITH,
Mr. VINING, Mr. SMITH, Mr WEBSTER, Mr. ISAACS.
Mrs. KNIGHT, Miss SMITHSON, and Mrs BLAND, with a *Song*

On Monday, Love in Humble Life.